

CLAIMS

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What is claimed is:

In a digital content delivery service system, a method of sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

- 5 obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;
- 10 accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;
- 15 sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and receiving a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.
- 25 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:
 - a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and
 - a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.
- 30 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed by printing.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed other than by printing.
- 25 7. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media by a digital content delivery service system, the computer-executable instructions including the steps of:
 - obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;
 - accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

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sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and receiving a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/consumed by printing.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/consumed other than by printing.

13. A digital content delivery service system for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising:

an interface e-media transfer unit, arranged to communicate with at least one of: a plurality of senders/users and other digital content delivery service system/systems and coupled to a sender/user account storage unit and a validation/audit processing unit, programmed to obtain/receive e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party and to store sender/user information and requested type of delivery in the sender/user account storage unit;

the validation/audit processing unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and to the sender/user account storage unit, for obtaining sender/user information and the requested type of delivery from the sender/user account storage unit, sending the e-media to the client/receiving party/other digital content delivery service system/systems, and obtaining validation/audit information for receipt/consumption of the e-media; and

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the sender/user account storage unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and the validation/audit processing unit, for storing sender/user information and a requested type of delivery of e-media.

14. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein at least part of the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is provided by the client/receiving party.
15. The digital content delivery service system of claim 14 wherein the validation/audit information includes at least one of:
 - 10 a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and
 - a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate receipt/consumption of the e-media.
16. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is automatically provided by a device/devices of the client/receiving party.
17. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved by printing.
18. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved other than by printing.
- 20 19. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an attended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:
 - 25 packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying the level of feedback;
 - requesting, by the sender/user, a delivery service to deliver the e-media;
 - accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;
 - transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;
 - 30 delivering of the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party; and

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validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and determining a desired level of delivery validation.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and verifying utilization by the receiving party.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received includes one of:

sending, by the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been utilized.

23. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of printed e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying the level of feedback; receiving, by the delivery service, the e-media delivery request;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

delivering of the e-media to a printer of the client/receiving party; and validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was transmitted; and determining a desired level of delivery validation/audit.

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25. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to the printer of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:
informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and
verifying receipt/consumption by the client/receiving party.

5 26. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed includes one of:
automatically sending, by the printer of the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and
automatically entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier by the printer of the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

10 27. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:
packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying a level of feedback;
requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;
accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;
transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to a client/receiving party;
delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party; and
25 validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
identification of the e-media; and
30 a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

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29. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.

30. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

- 5 packaging, by the sender, the e-media wherein a client/receiving party specifies a level of feedback;
- requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;
- 10 accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;
- transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;
- 15 delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party; and
- validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:

- 20 a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
- identification of the e-media; and
- a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes

25 validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.